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Title: Need to provide special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Madam, after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was enacted by Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State for five years to offset losses it could suffer because of the State's bifurcation. On the floor of the House the former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh gave the promise. So I request the present Government to please grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh because if the Prime Minister says something, people believe that, either former Prime Minister or the present Prime Minister. All the political parties, including the BJP, supported granting Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. As the House knows, the Seemandhra regions vehemently opposed the split and punished the Congress Party in the General Election as well as in the State Election held simultaneously in Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, the BJP was kind enough to demand in Parliament that Special Category Status should be given to Seemandhra for 10 to 15 years. Already there is unrest among the people of Andhra Pradesh for not getting Special Category Status. If the decision is delayed further, then it becomes difficult for elected representatives to convince the people. The Central financial assistance to a Special Category Status is calculated in such a manner that 90 per cent of it is deemed as grant and the remaining 10 per cent is considered as loan.

With bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra has suffered huge financial losses. IT industry, infrastructure industries, educational institutions and public sector undertakings are concentrated only in Telangana State. We have to build everything from scratch. In spite of financial constraints, our hon. Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu has embarked on an ambitious programme of building the new Capital City, inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure. It is a humungous task. If Special Category Status is given to Seemandhra, then these things can be implemented in a smooth way.

There is a demand for grant of a special package for seven districts in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India had given Rs. 50 crore. It is not enough. We request that the Government of India should give Rs. 200 crore for each district. ...(*Interruptions*)

Therefore, through this House, I urge upon the NDA Government to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh at the earliest.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi).